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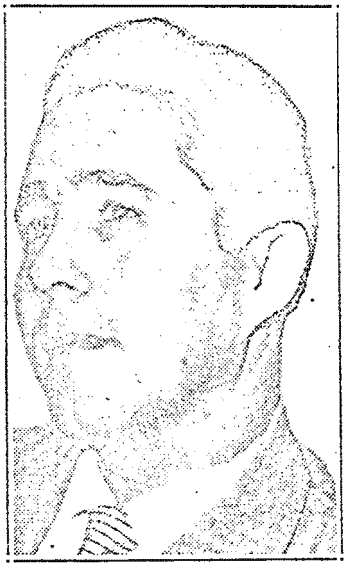
Sirhan, Sirhan
C.I.A. 4-Cuba
C.I.A. 4-Israel
C.I.A. 4-03 Duarte, Jose

Cuban Exile Tells of Fight With Sirhan

Miami, Fla., June 12 (AP)—An exiled Cuban army officer said today that Sirhan Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, told him before Kennedy's death, "What we need in the United States is another Fidel Castro."

The exile, Jose Duarte, said he argued with Sirhan and scuffled with him.

Duarte told a news conference the incident occurred about three weeks ago in a house at Hollywood, Calif. He said he recognized Sirhan as the man he scuffled with when Sirhan's picture appeared in newspapers after Kennedy's death.



Jose Duarte
Says Sirhan was pro-Castro

He reported the incident to Hollywood authorities and identified a police photo of Sirhan. He added that the man he fought with told him he was an Arab.

"He said what we (Cuban exiles) are doing is just what the Israelites are doing and that we are getting the same help from the CIA that Israel is getting," Duarte stated.

The scuffling began, Duarte said, "when he accused me of being an agent of the CIA."

Duarte said: "He made some derogatory remarks about Cuba and about me and we came to grips. Somebody separated us. He left."

The exile, who said he has been living in Los Angeles, said pictures of Castro and of the slain Communist guerrilla leader Che Guevara and slogans critical of the Vietnam War and the Johnson Administration were posted on the walls of the house where he met Sirhan.

Duarte said he and about 15 Cuban companions attended the meeting after seeing leaflets advertising an exhibtion of photographic slides taken in Cuba.

He said he objected to some of the descriptions given to the slides and demanded to be heard. He said he was given permission but was interrupted and the scuffling ensued.